

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 444

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1848

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC FI (VIRTANEN, KARI O.)

SUBJECT: FY 76 IV PROGRAM-TQ

REF.: STATE 215895

1. BIODATA: KARI OLAVI VIRTANEN BORN JULY 25, 1944 IN HELSINKI, FINLAND, MALE FINNISH CITIZEN, SINGLE; EDUCATION: MASTER'S DEGREE HELSINKI UNIVERSITY 1970 MAJOR IN FINNISH HISTORY AND WORLD HISTORY; PRESENT POSITION: INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, CONFEDERATION OF SALARIED EMPLOYEES IN FINLAND (TVK) FROM 1974; PREVIOUS POSITIONS: SECONDARY SCHOOL HISTORY AND NATIONAL ECONOMICS TEACHER 1968-71, ASSOCIATE INFORMATION SECRETARY IN 1971 AND EDUCATION SECRETARY 1971-74 OF TVK, AS WELL AS SECRETARY OF EDUCATION FEDERATION OF TVL 1971-74; NUMEROUS MEMBERSHIPS IN TRADE UNION AND OTHER COMMITTEES, BORADS, ETC.; NUMEROUS ARTICLES, SOME 15 LECTURES ON POLITICAL HISTORY FOR RADIO, 663-PAGE "HISTORY OF FINLAND 1890-1917" IN 1975, 223-PAGE "STUDY GUIDE FOR HISTORIAL-PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY" OF HKI UNIV. 1968, "HIGHER RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS AS A SOCIAL GROUP IN FINLAND 1870-1945" 125PP. 1970 (MASTER'S THESIS), "BRITISH IMPERIALISM AS AN IDEA IN THE 19TH CENTURY" 68 PP. 1969, "INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT" BEING WRITTEN WITH MR. KARI TAPIOLA AS CO-EDITOR; FOREIGN TRAVEL: U.S. NONE; FREQUENT BUSINESS TRIPS SINCE 1971 TO ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (EXCEPT ALBANIA) AND ONE TO MEXICO, STUDY TRIPS (MAXIMUM DURATION ONE MONTH) TO SWEDEN, DENMARK, UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY, USSR AND FRD; LANGUAGES: ENGLISH FLUENT, FINNISH MOTHER TONGUE, GOOD SWEDISH AND GERMAN; ADDRESSES: HOME KOSKELANTIE 11G50, 00610 HELSINKI 61, UNCLASSIFIED

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FINLAND; EMERGENCY - TVK (EMPLOYER), TOOLONTULLINKATU 8,

00250 HELSINKI 25, FINLAND.

2. VIRTANEN'S PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING AREAS: HE IS CURRENTLY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF TVK AND THEREFORE INTERESTED IN LEARNING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND METHODS. IN THE U.S., HE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE AFL-CIO, IN WHITE-COLLAR WORKER UNIONS AND U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM. VIRTANEN ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LABOR LAW AND LABOR SAFETY. SINCE LABOR IS TAUGHT AS A FIELD OF STUDY AT UNIVERSITIES IN FINLAND, IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR VIRTANEN TO VISIT SOME UNIVERSITY LABOR FACULTY IN U.S. (BELIEVE THAT IV GRANTEE SOMERTO DID THIS WITH SUCCESS). VIRTANEN HAS DEEP INTEREST IN HISTORY. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO HAVE BRIEFINGS AND OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS. HE STILL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION AT TVK NAD HAS STRONG INTEREST IN EDUCATION AND WISHES TO LEARN ABOUT STATE VERSUS FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN EDUCATION IN U.S. HIS AVOCATIONAL INTERESTS INCLUDE OPERA, BALLET AND MUSEUMS (HISTORY).

3. SUGGESTED ITINERARY AS OUTLINED IN CAO/VIRTANEN DISCUSSION: WASHDC WITH SIDE TRIP TO WILLIAMSBURG, ATLANTA (OPTIONAL), NEW ORLEANS, GRAND CANYON, LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO (SURFACE TRAVEL BETWEEN), ONE MID-WESTERN CITY (E.G. KANSAS CITY), NEW YORK CITY (WHERE WOULD BE HOUSE GUEST OF KARI TAPIOLA, WHO CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO UN CENTER ON TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATIONS - SEE PROGRAM OF MATTI AHDE, GY76 IV). VIRTANEN MET JAMES T. HOUSEWRIGHT, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, RETAIL CLERKS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 1775 K ST NW, WASHDC 20006, AT RECENT FIET CONGRESS IN HELSINKI AND WISHES TO MEET HOUSEWRIGHT IN U.S. DURING TOUR. VIRTANEN SHOULD RETURN FINLAND ON NOVEMBER 15.

4. VIRTANEN NAMECHECK OK.

5. VIRTANEN IS WELL-CONNECTED IN FINNISH LABOR MOVEMENT AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO ADVANCE IN POSITION AND INFLUENCE. HARDWORKING, ARTICULATE IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES, ALSO LIKELY UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE ACTIVE IN FUTURE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POLITICS. VIRTANEN IS NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH U.S. ALTHOUGH HE ALREADY OCCUPIES POSITION WHERE HE CAN BE MAJOR INFLUENCE IN FINISH POLICY TOWARD ISSUES AFFECTING OUR INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN ILO. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR HIM TO GET KNOW THE U.S. AND IT WOULD BENEFIT US FOR HIM TO HAVE THIS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE. AUSTAD

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